

## Danner, Ward

---

**From:** Huetteman, Tom  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2014 4:03 PM  
**To:** Symmes, Brian; Mottley, Tanya; Armann, Steve; Vendinello, Lynn; Gimlin, Peter  
**Cc:** Scott, Jeff; Barhite, Steven  
**Subject:** Final Region 9 statement about Malibu

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Green Category

This statement has been approved by our RA and will be provided to local media outlets who contact us about Malibu.

Tom

PCBs in schools is not unique to Malibu. This chemical was widely used in building materials across the country, including in school construction, from the 1950-1970s. Due to concerns over exposure to PCBs, in 1976 Congress passed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which banned most uses of PCBs. Recent scientific studies, including a 2012 study by EPA's Office of Research and Development, show that the primary health concerns from PCBs in building materials, including window caulk, stem from the inhalation of contaminated air; and secondarily from contact with PCBs in dust and subsequent incidental ingestion. For this reason, EPA's national guidance to schools is to implement best management practices to eliminate these potentially harmful human exposures to PCBs. These practices include frequent cleaning procedures and improved ventilation, as needed for that specific location. The work undertaken by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District appropriately focused on the human exposure pathways of greatest concern for school environments, specifically air, dust and soil, to make sure potential exposures meet health-based guidelines. EPA concurs with the approach currently being taken by the District, and does not recommend further testing of caulk unless dust or air samples persistently show a health concern in that location. The District's air and dust sampling has demonstrated that the rooms accessible to staff and students are safe from PCBs exposures.

---

**Bill Keener**  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. EPA - Region 9  
San Francisco, CA  
Phone: (415) 972-3940